

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OES-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01 AID-05 AGR-05 HEW-02 SAM-01

EUR-12 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

( ISO ) W

----- 014701

R 231513Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4974

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, CH, TW: MZ, LT, IR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON LESOTHO'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF AN INFORMAL DINNER AT HIS RESIDENCE ON JUNE 22 FOR THE AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE COMMENTED ON (A) HIS VISIT TO PEKING, (B) MOZAMBIQUE, (C) RELATIONS WITH UGANDA, (D) MALIBAMATSO WATER PROJECT, (E) CANADIAN AID GRANT, AND (F) REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN.

2. VISIT TO COMMUNIST CHANIA: KOTSOKOANE SAID HE SPENT 14 DAYS IN THE PRC AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH FIELDS. HE HAD 3 DAYS OF TALKS IN PEKING INCLUDING AN EXCHANGE WITH CHOU. KOTSOKOANE SAID THE CHICOMS EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LESOTHO UNLESS THE GOL BROKE WITH TAIWAN. ACCORDING TO KOTSOKOANE  
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THE CHICOMS SAID THE DECISION WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE GOL.  
KOTSOKOANE CLAIMED THAT PEKING DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ANXIOUS TO  
ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LESOTHO AND MADE NO OFFERS  
OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

3. KOTSOKOANE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE GOL HAD NOT MADE A  
DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN OR TO ESTABLISH  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. HE SAID "THE SITUATION WAS  
UNDER REVIEW". KOTSOKOANE ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE  
MAGNITUDE OR QUALITY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM TAIWAN AND  
SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE GOL COULD EXACT MORE ASSISTANCE FROM THE  
PRC.

4. MOZAMBIQUE: KOTSOKOANE SAID HE WAS DEPARTING JUNE 23 FOR  
LOURENCO MARQUES TO ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION  
ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF  
JUSTICE. HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP ON EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH  
FRELIMO AND MALAWI REPRESENTATIVES ON COOPERATIVE ACTION TO INSURE  
BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES FOR MIGRANT WORKERS IN SOUTH  
AFRICA. IN THIS CONNECTION KOTSOKOANE SAID THE GOL WANTED TO  
UP-GRADE BASOTHO LABOR SKILLS IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
THE BREAK DOWN IN THE JOB RESERVATION SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. UGANDA: KOTSOKOANE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE GOL HAD  
AGREED TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UGANDA  
AND THAT KAMPALA WAS EXPECTED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO MASERU SOON.

6. THE LALIBAMATSO WATER PROJECT: KOTSOKOANE INFORMED THE  
AMBASSADOR THAT THE IRANIANS HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN FINANCING  
THE MALIBAMATSO WATER PROJECT AND THAT THE CANADIANS HAD  
INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. KOTSOKOANE  
SAID THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY APPROACHED THE GOL AND  
INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN PURCHASING WATER FROM  
THE PROJECT.

7. CANADIAN AID: KOTSOKOANE SAID THAT HE HAD SIGNED A SIX  
MILLION DOLLAR GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN  
SOUTHERN MOUNTAINOUS AREA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO OTTAWA.

8. THE OICI: KOTSOKOANE COMMENTED THAT OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRI-  
ALIZATION CENTERS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDER CHAIRMAN REV. LEON H.  
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SULLIVAN MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO  
LESOTHO AND THAT THE GOL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OICI PROJECTS.  
KOTSOKOANE SAID THAT SULLIVAN PROMISED TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM TO  
LESOTHO IN AUGUST TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.  
BOLEN

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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